

I wish to register my opposition to NAB petition 04-160 to the extent that it would prevent XM's broadcasts of continual weather and traffic updates via its satellite service. Continuation and expansion of such broadcasts is clearly in the public interest.

From a safety standpoint, these broadcasts are something that the government should be supporting, not seeking to curb. They have the potential to save lives. As satellite radio becomes more commonplace, these broadcasts will be increasingly helpful to redirect traffic around serious accidents, thus assisting the local police and rescue departments. The same is true of alerting the community to serious localized weather problems.

Obviously, anything that reduces traffic congestion, as these broadcasts can help to do, improves both the quality of life and reduces the consumption of gasoline -- a national priority.

I strongly urge the FCC to reject efforts by broadcasters to eliminate or curtail this useful and innovative product.